Grey, R A = Principal, Oakwood Collegiate = Jan - June, 1920 (066)

R. A. GRAY, B.A.
PRINCIPAL

OAKWOOD COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
TORONTO

TORONTO, January 29, 1920.

Sir Robert Falconer.
President,
University of Toronto,
Toronto.

Dear Sir Robert :

As I was unacquainted with the details and the apparent difficulties of the new Course in Commerce prior to the meeting last Friday, may I now make a suggestion or two?

1. As there appears to be some hesitation about granting the B.A. degree without Latin, and as Latin is one of the optional subjects, why not give the B.A. degree to those who take Latin and the B. Com. to those without? In addition to the pass Latin, Honour Latin for Matriculation (40%) might be required, or the equivalent in the First Year, which is all that is needed in any other B.A. degree.

2. While Latin is not compulsory for the S.P.S. Matriculation, nearly all candidates choose the Latin option. When a pupil enters the High School, he does not know what course he will take, so he takes Latin because with Latin there are more courses open to him in the future. I do not think that with optional Latin there would be many who would not take the Latin. The fears of Professor Wrong and those guarding the interests

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of Latin seem to me to be groundless.

3. Some option which would recognize schools such as the High School of Commerce and encourage them to prepare students for the University would be wise, but that Matriculation into this course must be such that any High School in the Province without special facilities would have an equal chance of preparing their students seems to me essential.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R. A. Gray.

January 30th, 1920

Principal H. A. Gray,
Oakwood Collegiate Institute,
Toronto.

Dear Principal Gray:

It was very good of you to write to me your suggestions with regard to the proposal of the new course in Commerce. I may say that since our meeting there have been two meetings, one of a sub-committee on Matriculation at which Dr. Merchant and Mr. Tidon were present, and I send you a copy of the resolutions at which they arrived, and yesterday afternoon at the Undergraduate Studies it was decided to recommend to the Faculty of Arts that a new degree, Bachelor of Commerce, be instituted in the Faculty of Arts. The suggestions as to matriculation and the course for the degree are also sent up for consideration, and I will keep your letter and may use it when the discussion comes on later.

With many thanks, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

R. A. GRAY, B.A.
PRINCIPAL

OAKWOOD COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
TEMPUS ATTERIMUS DEMUS
TORONTO

TORONTO, May 27, 1920.

Sir Robert Falconer,

President, University of Toronto,

Toronto.

My dear Sir Robert,

As you thought there might be something in the suggestion that I made last evening, I might explain a little more fully what I had in mind.

It seems to me that graduates should be kept in touch with the University not so much for what the graduates could do for the University as for what the University could do for the graduates.

If the University would send at least one communication to every graduate every year, the personal interest taken would bind the graduates very strongly to the University. For example, if the address of the Hon. Mr. Balfour could have been sent to the Arts graduates, some Engineering address to the Engineering graduates, something along Medical lines to the Medical graduates, and so on, or a copy of the Alumni Monthly once a year, the graduates would feel that the University had an interest in them and they would be anxious to keep in touch with the University.

with greetings from the President,

It has always seemed to me that the University of Toronto has been so large that it lacked the personal element. There are too many for the President to get in touch with all, but the Professors could all get in touch more closely with their own classes. If it were the settled policy of the University to encourage a close relation between professors and students, the desired effect could be accomplished in this way. I may say that my own interest in the University has been largely due to Principal Hutton, and to Prof. Baker who always knew and took an interest in his students even after they graduated.

I would like also to say that instead of the Governors giving less to interest the graduates in the University, they should do more. The machinery for keeping in touch with the graduates is ready, and it would simply mean a little expenditure of money to carry out ideas such as I have indicated. In case of some emergency such as the

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raising of a Memorial Fund, or the protection of the University's interests threatened by the Government in connection with the University Schools, the University could rally the graduates to its aid without the great effort which seems to have been necessary lately.

If the students, then, were asked always to keep in touch with the University because of what the University wishes to do for them, what you propose doing seems to me would then be very effective.

Yours very truly,

R. A. Gray.

Principal.

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June 1st, 1920

Principal H. A. Gray,
Oakwood Collegiate Institute, Toronto.

My dear Principal Gray:

Many thanks for your kind letter. I am sure that what you say is correct and I hope that we are moving somewhat rapidly in the direction that you indicate. From what I hear the Alumni Monthly has been more effective during the last two years than ever before, and certainly it has been sent to very wide numbers of our graduates. I think also that there is more university news in it. I have long been in favour of and have urged the appointment of Alumni to the Board of Governors, but according to the Act this cannot be so officially, and the Government take matters into their own hands, making appointments about which we know nothing at all. I think that through the Deans we might do more. Applied Science, for example, is perhaps the most closely connected of all the Faculties with the University, and this has been done through their strong organisation. Medicine, I believe, is getting stronger, and the Colleges have their own loyalties. I hope that as a result of the Memorial of the Alumni the Board of Governors will take stronger action in regard to publicity. Let me thank you for your kind interest in the matter and assure you I shall always be glad to hear from you, and if you think the University can help in any way I shall be only too happy to do what I may.

Yours sincerely,

President.